

Africa Work Plan

1. Regional Overview

a. Narrative

i. Political trends

Africa's customary domain potentially extends to up to 1.4 billion hectares and at least 428 million people across the continent may be considered customary land holders. 50 percent (13) of countries in Central and West Africa have either revised or developed at least one new legal instrument in their national statutory tenure regimes since 2009. Important examples include Liberia's watershed 2009 Community Rights Law and the 2013 Land Rights Policy; Cameroon's reforms to its land and forest laws; and ambitious decentralization of land and resource management in Mali, Burkina Faso and Ghana. Indigenous Peoples' rights to land and resources have legally been recognized by the Republic of Congo, Central African Republic, Niger, Burkina Faso and Burundi. Yet most reforms recognize only a limited bundle of rights and many new regimes are yet to implement.

The lack of progress in legally recognizing customary property regimes and community rights continues to fuel conflict within and between countries. Mali's recent political crisis is a good illustration of this situation: it led to huge population displacements within the country and across its borders, creating additional pressure on lands and natural resources, and disturbed pastoralists' internal and trans-boundary transhumance patterns. It is only post elections that the government has moved to put back on track the decentralized management of natural resources to local collectivities, though now with strong support from decentralized authorities, who see this as important to re-establish peace. Movement of refugees away from conflict zones as well as back into their native countries fueled considerable crisis elsewhere in Africa (e.g., from Ivory Coast to neighboring countries, from Somalia to Kenya and Sudan into DRC). A civil war erupted in Central African Republic in March 2013 quelling hopes for effective governance reforms and stopping the advanced FLEGT VPA process.

In 2013, African countries continued to engage in new waves of reform to move away from the colonial legacy, a number of these linked to a new policy of decentralize and devolve resource and land management authority to the local level. More countries have embraced international initiatives for improved forest governance and trade and measures to mitigate and adapt to climate change. Four countries have signed FLEGT VPA agreements (Cameroon, Ghana, Liberia, and the Republic of Congo) and four more are in negotiations (Ivory Coast, DRC, CAR, and Gabon). In Southern and Eastern Africa, where reforms are much more advanced, there are important lessons that can be shared with Central and West Africa. A current challenge for civil society is pushing government to implement the reforms. Uganda has made limited progress in implementing its ambitious constitutional and legal reforms for land and forest rights and gender justice, with similar lags in Kenya.

ii. Driving forces behind these trends

Central and West African governments by and large continue to see control of land and resources by the State and allocation of land and sub-soil rights to domestic and FDI-funded industrial-scale extraction, agroindustry, energy and infrastructure development as the key to emulating the Asian "tigers" and emerging to middle-class status within fundamentally changing tenure and power relationships within

their countries. Civil society pushed back in the palm oil sector against RSPO member companies in Liberia and fraudulent investors in a highly biodiverse region of western Cameroon, forcing governments to renegotiate agreements and the companies to pursue higher standards, but community leaders continue to face intimidation there and elsewhere in the region, despite action by FSC to withdraw support from an important timber concessionaire, Danzer, due to its social impacts in DRC.

Africa is at a pivotal historical moment regarding “who owns the land” and by extension “who owns Africa”? The allocation of land rights is proceeding very fast; it has long-term impacts; and in most cases it is practically irreversible. Unfortunately, the forest institutions at national, regional and international levels are historically conservative and ill-prepared to respond to the dramatic changes due to climate, changing demographics, and dynamics of global scarcity and demand for commodities and energy. It is also clear that on the national level across Central and West Africa (CWA), the various sectors and ministries have not been coordinating with each other in developing policies or in allocating land and resources, which creates confusion and challenges for understanding the situation on the ground with regard to local communities’ rights. There has been progress in some countries to secure tenure, but no policy reforms recognize full ownership rights for local communities and indigenous people. And while policies are shifting, implementation on the ground is lagging. Regionally, the recognition of communities’ rights is proceeding more slowly than the pace of large-scale land deals that threaten their ownership of land.

China investment continues to dominate FDI in Africa, despite the growing presence of India, Nigeria, South Africa and other investors; China is still concentrated in mining and energy but timber and agriculture make up an increasing share. China’s sovereign wealth funds, banks, and private investors are coming under increasing scrutiny by the Chinese government against an increasingly high set of social and environmental standards, but there is not yet evidence that these are being enforced in practice. While Africa continues to have the highest percentage of its population under the poverty line, with 229 million people or 1/3 of the population rural poor, the high rate of population growth and rapid urbanization is rapidly changing the continent with more middle-income countries emerging with better infrastructure, technology, and energy supplies and thriving markets and trade. Central and West Africa continue to be primary producers, with trade partners mainly outside the continent—lacking infrastructure to link to one another or to the more wealthy African economies.

Climate change is increasingly an issue of concern in the northern half of sub-saharan Africa; with its impacts already having severe impacts on cropping and pastoral systems and causing population displacements towards cities and within the rural spaces. While tropical forested countries in West and Central Africa countries have entered into the REDD+ strategy and program development; the investments to date have been confined to building national platform and agencies and funding disconnected pilots. In the absence of a global climate convention or a carbon market, it is unclear what commitments governments are prepared to make towards tenure or other reforms, and community understanding and influence on the process and projects is still thin. Sahelian countries have initiated a Great Green Wall initiative across 7 countries, with national focal points and an initial infusion of funding. At the start the initiative was top down, but gradually civil society is actively entering and shaping the process and some national platforms are starting to work with local authorities/communities based on local realities.

iii. Changes in institutional landscape

The role of regional and sub-regional institutions is becoming increasingly important at the national level in shaping the land, forest and mining national policies. Collaborative frameworks as well as concerted actions plans on various subjects and areas of interest have been developed. The Land Policy Initiative's (LPI) Guidelines on Land Policy in Africa is a major reference by Africa governments. There is also a trend towards harmonization of actions, policies, frameworks and concerted actions plans on land, forest and mining issues. The Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) has developed mining guidelines, land guidelines, and regional plan for sustainable forest management. The West Africa Monetary Union (JEMOA) advocacy strategy aims for promoting community rights in mining in members state countries in West Africa. The Central African Forest Commission (COMIFAC) composed of 10 countries developed a Convergence Plan to harmonize forest policies and to push for the recognition of Indigenous Peoples' rights; it also collaborate with the Congo Basin Forest Partnership (CBFP) for the coordination and harmonization of its 10 countries forest policies.

Civil society regional networks building on national experiences are getting organized in response to the large-scale economic models and to participate in shaping the land and forest governance models in favor of community demands. The Civil Society Forum of West Arica (FOSCAO) is involved in the sub-regional debate on mining, the Farmers' Union regional network (ROPA) pushes for smallholders/farmers' land rights, and the Central African Indigenous People's network (REPALEAC) is a key actor advocating for Indigenous Peoples' rights.

The Parliamentarian Network for Sustainable Management of Central African Forest Ecosystem (REPAR) is advocating for the recognition of community rights in law making in Cameroon, DRC, and the whole Congo Basin.

Regional institutions provide a set of opportunities that had not been present before now: the Congo Basin Forest Partnership (CBFP) is now active with a more streamlined system of identifying, approving and implementing projects, the Land Policy Initiative (LPI) and the Africa Union (AU) is strengthened by the acceptance of the FAO Voluntary Guidelines (VG) by many of their members; and while just developing guidelines, the LPI, the Land Governance Assessment Framework (LGAF) and VGs are important opportunities. REFACOF has a solid action plan and some core funding—and is now working to build membership nationally in its 11 countries of engagement. ACRN, the Africa community rights network, is rethinking its niche and strategy as a platform to help communities shape their countries' reforms and initiatives.

iv. Rationale for regional activity engagement

More strategic analysis is needed at the regional level to inform advocacy in all of the above institutional spaces. This includes scoping of REDD+ and FLEGT advances and trends, analysis of the different community tenure options, including collective titling or otherwise securing community property rights versus individual titling, the particular impact of REDD+ and LSLAs on women. Many countries of engagement are revising their mining codes and there are important issues for women's tenure access and rights and negative impacts on women's households and livelihoods.

Most worrisome is that several important policies and strategies of regional and sub-regional institutions, which shape the national land reform agenda, do not advocate for collective and community land rights in the rural areas.

- The Land Charter of the Economic and Monetary Community of Central Africa (CEMAC) is being developed to facilitate foreign investment and will soon become a Directive that will guide Member States. The objectives of this Land Charter contradict some of COMIFAC's Guidelines.
- The new land policy of the African Union is about to be developed and will be submitted to the Heads of State. One major element of this new policy is the promotion of land reform in African countries through individual property rights and individual and family land titles, seeking to provide better access to financial credit through clear title. This will favor large investors but acts as a barrier to customary rights. It also ignores the fact that there are known alternatives to individual titles, based on customary, collective, and community rights, which can be cheaper and more appropriate for members of local communities.

The 13th Dialogue on Forest, Governance and Climate Change organized by the Rights and Resources Initiative (RRI) and held in Yaoundé, Cameroon, produced a declaration of agreed action, referred to as "Objective 2015," to dramatically increase the recognition and strengthening of local land rights by 2015 in the region, and included a commitment to develop a mechanism to regularly monitor progress. While there are a number of governance indices in use, including LGAF, the VGs, the Millennium Challenge Corporations land indicators, and the action manual for the Africa Land Policy Initiative, these are both very broad – covering urban as well as rural areas—the multiple indicators are better understood by the specialist than the policy-maker. There is not a manageable, agreed measure for collective forest tenure regimes or for securing diverse customary and indigenous peoples' tenure and rights. What is needed is a simple, yet credible index drawn from these indices that country government officials, lawmakers, civil society and communities can apply to track and measure progress over time.

v. Focus of Regional Activities and areas of intervention

In 2014, RRI's engagement in Africa will expand within Central and West Africa, with increased engagement in DRC and an initial engagement with the national policy reform commission in Senegal. RRI will engage key regional platforms to promote tenure and rights reforms in Africa, including the Africa Land Policy Initiative (LPI), CEMAC, and key climate and forest initiatives including the Congo Basin Forest Partnership (CBFP) and the Great Green Wall Initiative focused on Burkina Faso, Mali, and Senegal. In 2014, RRI will support REFACOF's deepening of engagement within the countries with member organizations and support ACRN in rethinking its role and strategy as a platform to advance the tenure and rights agenda in the FLEGT and REDD+ initiatives. A stock taking mechanism, such an index tool to monitor progress in tenure reform, will be developed— drawing from the experience of the anti-corruption transparency index developed by Global Witness, the Doing Business indicator developed by IFC, and other similar governance assessment tools.

Table of Regional activities/Actors/Budget

Activities to achieve priority outcomes	Implementers	Budget (Funded)	Budget (Unfunded)
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Disseminate the results of the environment impacts assessment study on the GGW in Mali and organize a sub-regional (Senegal, Mali, Niger, and Burkina Faso) dialogue on 	HIS, Sahel Eco, RLD, ICRAF, UICN, GP/DCF, GPDCF (lead), RLD, Sahel Eco, IUCN, With DNEF/National agencies/focal points, CILSS, UEMOA and ECOWAS Parliaments, ROPPA (CNCR, CNOP et CPF)	\$30,000	

the place of community tenure rights in the GGW as a Pan-african project	APCAM, the Dialogue and Reconciliation Commission, the Ministry of Reconciliation, CMAT and CR-NGO.		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Analysis on rural land titling: collective titling vs. individual titling- challenges and opportunities: what are the best options for securing community rights? 	Global program		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Analysis and regional dialogue on alternative economic models: how to make the economic case for investing in smallholders? 	Global program		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Monitor progress on land and forest tenure and policy reforms in Central and West Africa, develop the mechanism using transparency and other governance indices, and organize a write shop with a group of people to refine and finalize the tool and develop a strategy for its application in Central and West Africa 	Consultant, RRG, CED, RRI fellows	\$43,780	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Engage with regional and sub-regional institutions: CEMAC and Africa Union Advocate for rural communities land tenure rights in the drafting of the CEMAC land charter and the Africa Union policy on securing local tenure rights through individual and family land titling 	Regional director for Africa, facilitators, RRI fellows, RRI members in DRC and Cameroon		\$20,000
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> REFACOF 	REFACOF, Foundation for Community Initiative (FCI) in Liberia, the Land Commission, RRI members in Liberia		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Africa Community Rights Network (ACRN): organize a High Level and Strategy Planning Meeting to review the state of affairs with respect to community rights in Africa and discuss strategies for 			\$50,000

reinvigorating the campaign to advance community tenure of their land, territories and resources			
Total regional activities		\$73,780	\$70,000

Table: Countries of engagement and prospective countries

Countries of Engagement	Prospective Countries
Liberia	Senegal
Cameroon	
DRC	
Burkina Faso	
Mali	

Country Overview: Liberia

1. Changes since the previous year

Since 2012, the most important achievement is the completion of the New Land Policy, expected to be endorsed early 2014. The policy includes new provisions for customary land amongst which, the elevation of customary rights at the same level as statutory rights. This makes State land a residual category: land is owned by communities unless demonstrated otherwise. Also significant, is the general consensus amongst CSOs around the NLP, provided it is faithfully translated into law and that it respects the newly enacted (2009) Community Rights Law (CRL). That said, the none-retroactivity clause, in respect to all prior Government of Liberia's (GOL) decisions related to large-scale concessions and contracts, raises concerns as to how the GOL will be renegotiating the rents and benefits with landowners (i.e. the communities).

On the forest governance front, the moratorium placed on Private Use Permits (PUPs) is now into effect with the halt of issuance of all new Private Use Permits (PUPs) as well as the cancellation of the ones that were granted illegally. But despite this step forward, the Forestry Development Authority (FDA) remains seriously under-financed and under-staffed, reflecting on its ability to function effectively and also donor reluctance to put more soft funds into an institution that has misperformed in the past.

While palm oil companies continue to expand their operations in Liberia, community legal and technical support and advocacy by RRI Collaborators and local organizations in country, and with FPP support through the RSPO mechanisms internationally, has led companies to make significant changes in their social and environmental assessments and related contract agreements. Forcing government and companies to meet sufficiently high standards continues to be a challenge, as well as overlapping investment pressures from expanding mining exploration and approved exploitation. The Free Prior Informed Consent (FPIC) appears, to many CSOs, as a good entry point in these matters. If foreign investments and large-scale concessions continue to be Sirleaf's Administration's privileged path to development, the case for alternative models of economic development and small-scale holders' potential for development and how practically to support their emergence needs to be made at the national level. RRI's ongoing study of alternative economic models for development, once completed, should be a compelling advocacy tool in that matter.

As far as international initiatives are concerned, the implementation of the R-PP is still at an early stage and enthusiasm for the processes has waned amongst most stakeholders. If the REDD + Working Group is still active, the bulk of REDD+ activities are administrative in nature. That said, the process could pick up momentum any time soon and should therefore be utilized opportunistically so as to ensure it responds to the emerging new reality of community-owned forests. The parallel FLEGT VPA process is more advanced and the agreement soon to be ratified by the Parliament (initially scheduled to take place in January 2013). It continues to be an important vehicle for ensuring legal access of pit sawyers to timber operations and was a force in the cancelling of the illegal PUPs. Its implementation is challenging: both financially since private sector companies are not generating the expected revenues and community forests will never make up the difference and because the forest regulatory framework still creates too many barriers to small-scale and community based forestry.

2. Assessment of new opportunities and challenges

a. Opportunities

New Land Policy and CRL:

- The soon to be enacted NLP, will not only be a milestone but will also be an opportunity for influencing both the legislation process as well as the implementation phase so as to ensure effective participation of all stakeholders and that communities' rights provided under the CRL are respected.
- The Land Commission (LC) needs to continue to be a privileged target for RRI's advocacy activities given its current involvement with CSOs in the drafting of the NLP draft laws. Collaboration with the LC will also be critical once we reach the implementation phase.
- The government has begun support to Community Forest Development Committees (CFDCs) but focused on their management of revenues from industrial concessions affecting them. Pilot strengthening by RRI Collaborators at a more reasonable cost than the pilot USAID Community Forestry project has shown that CFDCs can be effective organizations for forest management as well as involve women in their structure and decisions.

Private sector engagement and development models:

- Multinational (Sime Darby, Golden Veroleum) are increasingly interested in FPIC and making significant changes in their operations to address the outstanding social issues, including customary tenure and rights, although they still have a long way to go to adequately engage communities and respect their rights.

International initiatives:

- REDD+ and Climate Change processes, if reenergized, are a potential opportunity for strengthening the forest sector and its governance only if its strategy is realigned with the new reality of community-owned forest models. REDD + is also a good entry point for national advocacy for the inclusion of the gender dimension in Climate Change frameworks and processes.
- The VPA process, if it moves forward, could be a positive force for the development and growth of a legal domestic and community forestry although this will require considerable civil society advocacy and openness of government to regulatory reform.

Engagement with new actors

- Building onto existing networks and CSOs at the national and sub national level (county level), RRI will seek to expand its reach and engage with new actors that work on human rights and tenure issues and particularly with those Community Based Organizations (CBOs) that already collaborate closely with RRI's coalition members.
- More platforms and networks have emerged on women's rights and gender issues, with new interest by the national association of female lawyers (NAFL) and the Gender Task Force around the NLP implementation, and the natural resources women's platform (NRWP) in the LSLA and natural resource issues, and considerable strengthening of the platform of community women's groups being facilitated by FCI and the NRWP.

b. Challenges

New Land Policy and CRL:

- The major threat, whereas the NLP is concerned, is that some of its provisions get lost and contradictions with the CRL emerge when translated into law.
- The gender component to the NLP is still too weak and more needs to be done in order for the LC to include the gender dimension in the legislation.
- The NLP has yet to be widely disseminated so as to reach local communities in order for the policy to achieve national ownership.
- The implementation phase will have to be accompanied by a significant amount of capacity building within communities for local structures to be effective and operational.
- Engagement with the CFDCs will continue to be a challenge as long as its lack of capacities and leadership are not redressed.
- While LEITI is functioning well, it relies on scarce and/or flawed information contributing to the forest sector's continued lack of transparency.

Private sector engagement and development models:

- CSOs in Liberia still do not have a strategy for advocating with government and private sector to highlight advantages of and options for pursuing alternative economic development models.
- Palm oil plantations (EPO) continue to threaten communities' lands and livelihoods and misinformation from government and the companies and acts of intimidation are still widespread.
- County Development Trust Funds (under the Finance Ministry) responsible for channeling revenues from mineral concessions to communities for social projects are reportedly not delivering on public goods investments in the affected communities.
- Conservation agencies are promoting biodiversity and environmental offsets with private sector companies, without respect for community tenure, indigenous knowledge and rights, with lack of clarity on carbon rights and benefits as well.

International initiatives:

- The stalling national REDD+ and VPA processes and lack of political will may dampen any reenergizing or preparedness efforts on the part of CSOs.

3. Strategy and proposed areas of intervention

Liberia's 2014 strategy will be centered around the NLP, which is viewed as "The Game Changer" of the land reform process in Liberia. Efforts will be geared towards the dissemination of the NLP so as to reach rural communities across the country, ensuring the policy's national ownership. Once the NLP is enacted, attention will be focused on the involvement of civil society, including women and local communities, in the legislation process so as to ensure the NLP is faithfully translated into law and that the CRL is respected. Eventually, the implementation phase will also need to be supported through capacity building activities and piloting of options, especially for the local structures. While the RSPO grievance mechanism has proven to be an effective tool for communities to demand higher standards for establishment and expansion of palm oil plantations in and around community lands, Collaborators and RRI studies have begun to shift the dialogue increasingly to the macroeconomic level, comparing

these with alternative models for economic development and disseminating lessons to high level policy-makers and Ministries. This new focus will be supported by completing and disseminating comparative studies on LSLA and agribusiness vs. small holders in both Liberia and Cameroon using regional funding, and the sharing of best practices of successful alternative models of NTFPs and small-holders.

Collaborators plan to reenergize the stalled REDD+ and Climate Change national processes and use these opportunistically so as to renew political will and to ensure they are rights-based, community-based and pro-poor. The participation of women in REDD+ and related frameworks will also be supported through the increased engagement of women's platforms in the national REDD+ process.

Finally, Collaborators plan to build on existing networks, including grassroots CBOs, and reach out to other national CSOs working on land policy and tenure issues in order to scale up advocacy efforts and to better reach affected communities.

Table 1: Priority outcomes and indicators of progress

Priority outcomes	Indicators of progress
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The New Land Policy (NLP) and the Community Rights Law (CLR) are strengthened and protected in the Constitution 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Reports from district/county level consultations Draft of constitutional propositions Validation reports from four regional workshops, focus group discussions, civil society round table and national conference Draft list of constitutional propositions
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The CRL is taken into account in the drafting process of the regulations 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Stock taking report Copy of the road map Copy of the proposed amendment of the CRL regulation
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Key women’s rights advocates are involved in the drafting committee of the NLP legal framework and bring in the gender dimension. Voices and inputs from women’s platforms in the counties feed in the drafting of the NLP legislation and regulations. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Catalogue of women voices and inputs resulting from the consultations Number of positions formulated and presented to drafting team Number of issues from the positions included in the National Land Law
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> National engagement in the legislation process through the scaling-up of local Civil Society Organizations at the county level, bringing their voices in the process, leveraging their arguments and ensuring the inclusion of community safeguards in the laws. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Expert analysis/recommendations published and distributed to stakeholders. Local CBOs and Animators inputs are documented and shared with policymakers. Community knowledge on and participation in the law making process is strengthened Capacity of Animators and CBOs in targeted communities is strengthened. Simplified version of policy documents and educational materials are produced and distributed to key targeted communities.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Propositions are developed for the government of Liberia and National Investment Commission on how to move away from the palm oil type model and for investing in small holders; A more comprehensive engagement moving from a reactionary advocacy strategy 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> TBD by RRG

<p>to the questioning of larger models while proposing alternatives.</p>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A first permit delivered for pit sawyers 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Copy of license/permits for pit sawyer • Copy of community forest management agreement for CFDC
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The impacts (negative or positive) of Liberia’s large scale concessions, agribusiness and land development on women’s forest, land and natural resources tenure rights are assessed and grievances, gaps and safeguards for addressing gender tenure rights issues are identified and developed. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Report on the impact of the private sector on women tenure rights in Liberia • An independent and autonomous Natural Resources women platform • Recommendations and policy formulations to address gaps, grievances and impact of private sector on women tenure rights
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Promote REDD+ through community forestry. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Existing community governance structures aligned with the CRL • Community forest lands Maps are produced. • Collaboration with the FDA on community forest status initiated and ongoing. • Application for community forest status initiated.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • CSOs reengage with the national REDD+ process; the political will and leadership on the REDD process and Climate Change is re-energized for right-based, community-based, and pro-poor REDD+. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • National climate change Secretariat is established • Regular meeting of REDD technical committee • CSOs and communities actively participating in REDD meeting and reengaging
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Liberia National REDD+ frameworks and strategies are analyzed from a gender perspective with key recommendations on how include women’s tenure in REDD+. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • List of gaps and safeguards are identified to address gender issues and women’s tenure right in the Liberia REDD+ process.

Table 2: Activities; Implementers; Budget

Activities	Implementers	Budget (Funded)	Budget (Unfunded)
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Constitutional proposal on the Community Rights Law (CRL): Organize participatory county/district level consultations to gather inputs into constitutional propositions to protect customary land and property rights in Liberia’s Constitution; Hold multi-stakeholder validation workshops/dialogues/conferences at the regional and national level; and organize formal ceremony to present constitutional propositions to Constitutional Review Commission and follow-up. 	<p>GA (Alliance for Rural Democracy, Natural Resources Women platform, Concern citizen Caucus for Rivercess, Sinoe County Human and Natural resources rights Movement, Whistle Blower Union, Talking Congress of Grand Kru, Bomi county Advocacy Union, Nimba county environmental and economic advocates, GCAP- Grand Gedeh, Rivergee Citizen Union, etc.. Constitution review Committee, Land commission, Economic Social and Cultural network – Liberia)</p>	\$40,000	\$100,000
<p>Linking the CRL with the Land Rights Policy implementation:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Conduct a stock taking on the status of the CRL regulation amendment process including profiles of major decision makers Facilitate a focus group discussion between the Forestry Development authority, USAID/ PROSPER project, the Land Commission and relevant civil society actors to identify a road map for amending the CRL regulation to ensure consistency with the CRL Draft Proposed Amendments to the CRL Regulation ; Organize a participatory validation workshop; Submit the proposed amendment of the CRL regulation to the FDA board for promulgation 	<p>GA (Alliance for Rural Democracy, Natural Resources Women platform, Forestry Development Authority, Land commission, USAID/PROSPER</p>	\$45,000	

<p>Local women’s platform participation in the implementation of the New Land Law (NLL):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Organize community and county level consultations with women on the New Land Policy (NLP) legislation. • Organize quarterly coordination meetings for key women rights advocates and others stakeholders on the New Land Law (NLL) • Hold 12 radio shows at the county level on the importance of the gender dimension in the NLL 	<p>Foundation for Community Initiatives (the Liberian Female Lawyers Association, the Land Commission gender task force, women’s platforms in the counties)</p>	<p>\$40,000</p>	<p>\$ 30,000</p>
<p>Land Rights Policy:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Conduct an analysis on the Land Rights Policy and its translation into law and hold two regional and national level consultations. • Train 50 community-based animators and local Community Based Organizations on the Land Rights Policy and legislation process and produce simplified versions of land related documents. • Hold a multi-stakeholder dialogue with government agencies, local leaders and CBOs. 	<p>Sustainable Development Institute (SDI)</p>	<p>\$37,800</p>	<p>\$10,000</p>
<p>Making the economic case of investing in small holders as an alternative to LSLA</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Develop a convening paper around agribusiness & alternative economic models • Document successful models of NTFPs and small-holders as alternatives for communities to signing land away. • Analyze the forest regulations from a community rights perspective • Document and showcase the negative impacts of palm oil plantations on community tenure rights. • Map the overlapping territories • Convene a national/regional dialogue. 	<p>RRG, Partners and Collaborators in Liberia (experts and external actors)</p>	<p>Regional/global activity</p>	
<p>Pit sawyers:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provide administrative, operational, technical, financial and legal support to pit sawyers and CFDCs; • Capacity building workshops on establishing community forest and obtaining a pit sawyer permit; • Identify and select a site for a right based community forest management area and establish a CFMA and pit sawyer permit 	<p>GA (pit sawyer union, Alliance for Rural Democracy, Natural Resources Women platform, Forestry Development, multi stakeholders on pit sawyer, USAID PROSPER)</p>		<p>\$70,000</p>

<p>Gender and women's tenure rights in Large-scale land acquisitions</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provide administrative, operational, technical and financial support to the Natural Resources women Platform • Organize five regional PRA workshops to gather the views, complaints, grievances and voices of women on the impact of large scale concessions and land development in Liberia; • Organize a multi stakeholder national validation workshop and formulate policy recommendations for reforming large scale land and agribusiness business to be presented during a national round table dialogue; • Design series of tool kits on the impacts of private companies (large scale concessions) on women tenure rights in Liberia. 	<p>The Natural Resources Women's Platform (Alliance for rural Democracy, Green Advocates, Land Commission, Bureau of National concessions, National Investment Commission, Land commission)</p>	<p>\$21,700</p>	<p>\$48,500</p>
<p>Community forestry and Community Rights Law (CRL)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Document the customary land claims of pilot community forestry in Rivercess: • Align community governance structures with the requirements under the Community Rights Law (CRL) • Validate identified community forest lands with the Forest Development Agency. • Facilitate acquisition of community forest status for five communities in Rivercess. 	<p>SDI (ARD/PROSPER, NEAL and CJPS)</p>	<p>\$30,500</p>	<p>\$ 8,000</p>
<p>Gender, women's tenure rights in REDD+</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Do a gender analysis of Liberia's national REDD+ frameworks and strategies with a focus on: institutions, strategies, pilot projects, funding, and women's tenure rights; • Organize a multi-stakeholder validation workshop with women's groups, CSOs and government officials to discuss the REDD+ policy and pilot projects study findings. 	<p>Foundation for community initiatives (FCI)</p>	<p>\$35,000</p>	<p>15,000</p>

<p>REDD+ and climate change- institutional arrangements- and CSOs’ participation:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Facilitate the setup of the National Climate change Secretariat and the appointment of a climate change advisor for the Government of Liberia; • Organize four separate working focus group discussions with the Land Commission, the forestry Development authority, the Environmental Protection agency and REDD technical working group to encourage re-engagement of the national REDD process; • Stock taking on the current REDD+ efforts and draft a two page strategy for engaging the REDD process; • Organize civil society and local community consultative meetings and facilitate civil society inputs into the REDD + process • Facilitate CSO and communities’ participation in the regular REDD + technical meetings • Hold consultative meetings on the potential for re-establishing the National Climate Change Secretariat. 	<p>Green Advocates (GA) (Alliance for Rural Democracy, Natural Resources Women platform, Concern citizen Caucus for Rivercess, Sinoe County Human and Natural resources rights Movement, Whistle Blower Union, Talking Congress of Grand Kru, Bomi county Advocacy Union, Nimba county environmental and economic advocates, GCAP- Grand Gedeh, Rivergee Citizen Union, etc..Forestry Development Authority, REDD technical working group, the EPA, UNDP, , Land commission, Economic Social and Cultural network - Liberia</p>		<p>\$60,000</p>
<p>Total Liberia Budget</p>		<p>\$ 250,000</p>	<p>\$341,500</p>

Country Overview: Cameroon

1. Changes since the previous year

Cameroon has undergone dynamic reforms over the past few years following the enactment on December 26, 2007 of Law No. 2007/006 concerning the National Financial Plan, the adoption in March 2009 of Cameroon's outlook for 2035 as an emerging country and the adoption in November 2009 of the Growth and Employment Strategy Paper (DSCE). This policy gives high priority to optimizing the country's natural resources, developing large-scale concessions and attracting prominent investors. This new governmental policy and action framework has led to a systematic review of actions taken at the sectoral, ministerial and local levels. The 2001 Mining Code was revised in 2010 to focus on the sector's optimal economic viability. The reform of the 1974 Land Law was announced in January 2011 by the President of Cameroon, with the aim of securing industrial land and promoting the development of second generation agriculture. In addition, the Rural Sector Development Strategy Paper (DSDSR) is under revision. It is in this same way that the law establishing economic zones was adopted. A framework law on land use planning in Cameroon was enacted in 2011 set to better coordinate sectoral policies (its implementing decrees are being drafted). The Pastoral Code is being developed and the Forestry Law of 1994 is being reviewed, although their draft legislation is currently blocked in Parliament. The year 2013 also brought the election of Mayors, new Parliamentarians and Cameroon's first Senators after 31 years of Paul Biya's presidency.

a. Engagement with new actors/change in the institutional landscape

In terms of land reform advocacy, new strategic players, additional to existing national NGOs, stand out. Examples include:

- The Network of Parliamentarians for the Sustainable Management of Forest Ecosystems in Central Africa (REPAR) in Cameroon has produced two position papers pursuant to Parliament/Government dialogues on land reform and studies on the harmonization of sectoral policies on the use of land. This year REPAR plans to focus on raising awareness and mobilizing new legislators, senators and the thematic Parliamentary Committee responsible for reviewing laws on land, environmental and territorial planning issues.
- The National Council of Customary chiefs has established alliances with national members of the RRI coalition and the network of African Women for Community Forest Management (REFACOF) to discuss issues surrounding the recognition of women's customary rights. Customary chiefs (with the support of RRI) adopted a position on customary land issues and submitted this with their recommendations to the National Assembly and the Presidency. They plan to continue advocacy in 2014.
- Indigenous Peoples, including the Mbororo (a population of northern Cameroon) who are transhumant pastoralists and live in Sahelian zones different from the rest of Cameroon. The Mbororo Social and Cultural Development Association (MBOSCUDA) calls for recognition of their land rights and representation in decision-making bodies.

2. Assessment of new opportunities and challenges

a. Opportunities

The political and institutional context offers a variety of opportunities:

- Civil society advocacy around marginalized groups and collective ownership of rural land (local communities, women, and Indigenous People) could create opportunities through the land reform for sustainable development, poverty reduction and social stability at local and national levels. This is also the case for ongoing reforms processes on agriculture, pastoral Code, the mining Code, the 1994 forest law and land use planning. The drafting of the Rural Sector Strategy provides an additional opportunity to advance collective, customary, and community tenure rights.
- Recently elected Mayors, Parliamentarians and Senators may strongly influence the reforms and processes in favor of local communities' interests.
- -The ongoing land reform in other countries such as Liberia, Senegal, the DRC and Ivory Coast) can feed the discussions in Cameroon by sharing lessons learned.
- COMIFAC Directives on sustainable forest management and FAO Voluntary Guidelines can contribute to strengthening community rights' agenda in Central Africa, especially in Cameroon and the DRC, helping DRC reforms to influence Cameroon.

b. Challenges

- The reforms processes that are simultaneously taking place are unplanned, non-participatory and non-harmonized, and linked to government's development focus on foreign investment and large-scale land acquisitions (oil palm plantations and extractive industries such as oil and iron).
- The efforts of change agents within government and across civil society lack synergy. Reformists represent the minority in the process and communities, although well organized, have low capacity and often lack strategic vision.
- Corruption, entrenched and bad governance, resistance to reforms and pressure from international interests favoring liberalization and privatization all hinder fair and equitable reforms.

3. Strategy and proposed areas of intervention:

For improved efficiency and in order to produce relevant results, the RRI coalition in Cameroon is considering a strategy that encourages:

- Build alliances to reach out to development partners engaged with the Cameroon government in order to better understand their intervention policies; build a strong partnership with REPAR and the parliamentarians commission, including the central administration; and establish strategic alliances with traditional chiefs, Senate members, mayors, etc..
- Strengthen local communities' capacities to better participate in the reform processes and be heard.
- Develop a communication strategy with national journalists for them to own the RRI agenda and messages and relay the message to a broader audience.

Four main areas of intervention have been identified:

- Land and forest laws and policies: A diagnosis of local communities' land rights will provide a national overview and identify the best entry points for the recognition of rights. The following important questions will be considered: What rights do we want for communities? Why is it important to recognize land tenure rights of local communities? How to initiate the land reform? What are the recognized rights for populations over forests, land and mines? This diagnosis will take IPs (including Baka/Baguieli and the Mbororo/breeders), women's and customary rights into account. In addition to targeting the land reform, RRI will influence drafting of related laws and regulations on land use planning as well as the planned strategy for pilot zones in the north and south-west of the country. RRI will inform and sensitize parliamentarians (Delegates and Senate members) on the stakes around land and land use planning and empower local communities for advocacy. Additional reforms may be influenced, including the law on the creation of economic zones and the national strategy for the development of palm oil and the rural sector strategy.
- Identify options to secure land for local communities: RRI will focus essentially on the domains for communities, the recognition of villages as a legal entity, Vital Spaces (institutionalization of FPIC and of mapping), community forests, the notion of co-ownership (State-Communities), and retrocession of community forests currently within production forest concessions units (UFAs). All these options will only achieve local land security through the institutionalization of the principle of free, prior and informed consent (FPIC) and participatory community and IPs' rights mapping.
- Gender and women tenure rights: RRI will undertake two interventions. First, mobilize local women and IPs in a number of agro-ecological regions and strengthen their understanding of existing laws and how their rights are taken into account or not, and ensure their voices are included in the decision making processes at the central level and in the land reform more specifically. Second, analyze those elements in the customary tenure system that are favorable to women and their tenure and rights, as well as those that contribute to women's discrimination to inform advocacy geared towards customary chiefs. In parallel RRI will advocate through the REDD+ process for the potential leadership role of women and IPs in owning and managing forest resources that contribute to the REDD+ objectives.
- Indigenous Peoples' tenure rights: In addition, propositions will be developed to recognize the specificities of IPs in relation to forest tenure make specific recommendations for the land reform.

Table 1: Priority outcomes and indicators of progress

Priority outcomes	Indicators of progress
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Legal and institutional frameworks are identified and recommendations proposed to decision-makers • A moratorium on land allocations in Cameroon is signed and implemented including a position document from parliamentarians • A road map is elaborated by REPAR 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A report is prepared and obtains validation from the coalition and decision makers through a restitution meeting. • Parliamentarians are convinced ; a campaign document is produced and diffused • Road map on the reform of the law on land use planning

and RRI for reform of the law on land use planning (Aménagement du territoire)	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Institutionalization of participatory mapping of customary lands through a Ministerial decree from the MINEPAT. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A sensitization plan is elaborated • Reports from dialogues with the concerned Ministries, local communities, CSOs and the private sector. • Case studies of good and bad practices are documented and exchanged with pilot projects for regional planning • A decree project is announced
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Villages are recognized as a legal entity with the signature of a decree from the MINATD. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Case studies on mapping established as an argumentative support • Minutes of advocacy meetings with the MINATD • Decree project is established
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A law on the establishment of local communities' domains is promulgated. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Minutes of multi stakeholder dialogues • Position document is elaborated • Draft law is proposed
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Local women and IPs are sensitized on the devices, mechanisms and implication of the land reform. • A position document for the recognition of collective property rights for women in the land reform is presented to the MINDCAF and adopted by the REPAR 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The different types of customary women tenure rights are documented in three areas in Cameroon (East, South-East and North) and the findings disseminated. • Number X and quality of sensitized women (peasants, mayors, elected officials etc.) • A women position document is available ; • Number and quality of women representatives in strategic discussions on land.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Local women and IPs participate and are positioned in the REDD+ process • The leadership role of women in forest resources management is documented as best practice to reach the REDD+ objectives and this informs policies and national REDD+ strategies. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Number of local women and IPs at the regional level sensitized on the REDD process and participate in the REDD entities at the local level • A best practices document produced on women's leadership in forest resources management and mitigation
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The specificities of IPs in relation to forest tenure are identified and propositions for a better way to secure their lands are taken into account in the land reform. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A study is available and distributed to all the stakeholders • A position document for advocacy is elaborated in a participatory fashion and presented to decision makers • Number of indigenous groups consulted • Number of national workshops/radio programs for sensitization conducted • Number of women/men IP representatives

	(Mbororo/Baka) in meetings on land.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The journalists from the written press, radio and television who will convey the agenda and messages of the RRI coalition in Cameroon are identified and trained. A preliminary communications strategy for RRI in Cameroon is elaborated. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Number of journalists are trained Documents are produced Preliminary communications strategy

Table 2: Activities; Implementers; Budget

Activities	Implementers	Budget (Funded)	Budget (Unfunded)
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Take stock of community concerns that need to be taken into account in cross-sectoral reforms (land, land use planning, forests, and mines): define the types of rights claimed by the communities vis-à-vis rural and collective land tenure. Advocate for implementing new legal provisions on land use planning prior to any allocation of new large-scale land acquisitions (LSLA) and campaign for the suspension of planned allocations. Organize a conference with stakeholders on the land use planning and related laws to discuss RRI generated policy briefs and advocacy statements. 	GDA, CED, Cameroon Ecology, CAFT, REFACOF, IUCN, ICRAF, REPAR, Senate Commission and of the National Assembly in charge of reviewing draft laws, the Presidency and First Ministry.	\$34,010 \$15,000 \$50,000	\$15,000 \$5,000
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Document case studies in the South-West and the North of Cameroon and organize national and local level dialogues around an advocacy strategy for recognizing participatory mapping as a formal tool for territory and resource management. Organize a dialogue around an advocacy strategy targeted at the Ministry for Territorial Administration and 	Cameroon organizations in RRI, ,local communities, policy makers, MINATD, CSOs, private sector, customary chiefs, Sectoral Ministries, parliamentarians/REP	\$30,000 \$30,000	\$10,000 \$10,000

Decentralization (MINATD) for establishing the village as a legal, decentralized entity.	AR)		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Document women’s customary tenure rights in the East, South-West and the North and Compare these to modern law and disseminate findings to women for their use in advocacy activities. 	RRI members engaged in Cameroon	\$10,000	\$20,000
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Organize regional workshops to sensitize local women and IPs for their participation in national and regional REDD+ processes. Document best practices of women’s contribution to climate change mitigation and forest resources management. 	RRI members engaged in Cameroon	\$20,000	\$20,000
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Take stock and update the status of IP land rights using case studies of the Baka/Baguieli and Mbororo pastoralists Advocate for collective IP tenure rights and alternatives for securing their lands. 	RRI members engaged in Cameroon.	\$30,000	\$10,000
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Organize a training workshop for journalists on the agenda and key messages of RRI in Cameroon and globally. 	RRI members engaged in Cameroon (journalists from the newspapers, radio and television).	\$10,000	
Total Cameroon Budget		\$229,010	\$90,000

Country overview: Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC)

1. Changes since the previous year

The Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) has initiated several ambitious political, legal and institutional reforms over the past decade. Among these reforms are those pertaining to forestry, mining and, more recently, in July 2012, land.

These reforms have generally been conducted in a post-conflict context characterized by both weak national governance and a lack of harmonization among laws and sectoral regulations. This is largely due to the absence of national sectoral policies in many instances along with a national land use planning policy (aménagement du territoire) which has complicated reform implementation.

Land reform is considered to be a government agenda priority for the 2012-2016 period. The strategy is expected to be carried out in conjunction with agricultural reform, agendas for stability and peace in post-conflict areas, and national REDD+ policy. The reform process is designed to be: i) multi-sectoral; ii) bottom-up and decentralized; iii) building on lessons learned; iv) respectful of human rights, particularly focused on women and children; and v) built on coordinated efforts by technical and financial partners.

These basic strategic principles led to the Prime Minister's creation of the National Commission for Land Reform (CONAREF) on May 31, 2013 by means of Decree No. 13/016. Following Decree No. 0145 of July 20, 2013, the Minister of Land Affairs appointed 19 members to the Commission.

Taking into account the direct or indirect impacts that these reforms, especially land related, may have on Indigenous peoples and community land and forest rights and livelihoods, civil society organizations (CSOs) have mobilized and intend to play a supportive role advocating for these disadvantaged groups in order to secure tenure rights and fight against poverty.

A national workshop, initiated by civil society, and coordinated by the Conseil pour la Defense Environnementale par la Legalite et la Tracabilite (CODELT) and the Reseau des Ressources Naturelles (RRN) with the support of RRI, was held from December 3-5, 2013 to discuss CSO participation and representation in land reform process. The CSOs' major critiques of CONAREF is that the underlying Decree No. 13/ 016 minimized civil society participation by providing them only one member seat out of nineteen. Further, the decree states that this seat is reserved for a well-targeted delegate from agricultural cooperatives stemming from the Peasant Women's Organization, a member of the National Confederation of Agricultural Producers in the Congo (CONAPAC).

This national workshop, attended by 44 CSOs from the 11 provinces of the DRC, came to consensus regarding: i) the need to expand representation of CSOs working on land issues within the CONAREF; ii) agreement to establish a supporting CSO think tank; iii) key elements of an advocacy plan; and iv) the need to capitalize on lessons learned from forest, agricultural, mining and oil reforms already undertaken in the DRC. Finally, the workshop resulted in several commitments, set out in a summary report signed by the participants, including: i) willingness of CSOs present at the workshop to collaborate , now and in the future, toward a common vision regarding the land reform process; ii) confirmation of the legitimacy of the seat previously held by CONAPAC in CONAREF as representing CSOs within CONAREF; iii) coordination of a CSO think tank for land reform by CODELT, RRN and CONAPAC; iv) in the interim, securing land rights through documentation and collective titling, like those provided by the Forest plan (local community forestry concessions).

The land reform process is already attracting interest from a number of technical and financial partners from Belgium, South Africa, EU Delegation, USAID, DFID, Holland, UNDP, THE World Bank, Norway, UN-HABITAT, and ILC.

2. Evaluation of new opportunities and challenges

a. Opportunities

- Recognition of customary land rights, entitled to the same guarantees as statutory land rights (Article 34);
- The Constitutional Proclamation regarding livelihood and natural resource rights and prosecution that can derive from violation of these rights, whether imposed by government or any other person (Article 56 and 57 of the Constitution);
- Constitutional recognition of customary authority and the reference to a statute to determine the status (Article 207, Constitution);
- A strong political will to reform using a participatory approach and stakeholder involvement (including civil society), to generate both a Land Reform Road Map and a policy document;
- Parallel process of other reforms affecting land (i.e. Reforms affecting land use planning, customary authority, conservation, the environment, REDD+, oil and mining);
- Benchmarks concerning best practices, experience and options for securing collective land and forest rights in rural areas can inform the land reform. (ie, Article 22 of the Forest Code, Provincial Law No. 002 /2012 of June 28, 2012 on the relationship between traditional chiefs, land chiefs and farmers in customary land management in North Kivu Province, community forestry, establishment of a decentralized land management system for customary use in South Kivu);
- The country's commitments to international guidelines, including the Declaration of Heads of State and Guidelines on Land Policy in Africa, the FAO Voluntary Guidelines, etc.;
- A committed and organized civil society with proven expertise on land issues (ie. Women's groups and local associations).
- CSO commitment to form a think tank on land tenure composed of the national CSOs in Kinshasa and representative from the 11 provinces in the DRC.

b. Challenges

- Weak governance and tenuous peace in the eastern Congo region;
- Changing political actors (including the pending ministerial restructuring);
- CSO dialogue with the private sector could raise suspicion of local communities;
- Inadequate financial means to implement the advocacy plan proposed by the CSO;
- The centralization of the land reform process in Kinshasa, leading to less interaction with the provinces and local entities;
- The oil boom (even into the public domain) reduces local rights and livelihoods;
- Lack of involvement and ownership of the land reform process by local actors;
- Lack of consideration of women's tenure rights in the different reform processes
- The growth of forested land grabbing in the DRC (biofuel plantations, carbon);
- National agenda difficult to articulate with that of external actors, including donors;
- Complex regional and local contexts and extreme cultural diversity.

3. Strategy and proposed areas of intervention

The 2014 strategy and focus areas were defined by some civil society organizations and experts involved in a strategic planning workshop in the DRC, held from December 6-7, 2013. The workshop identified the following priority action. Engaging civil society in tenure reform by supporting the CSO think tank on land tenure to develop their advocacy plan and put in place a steering committee to ensure the effective implementation of planned activities. The areas of intervention will have as the game changer, the land reform; it will aim for securing community, collective, and customary land rights while investigating the forest and other sectoral legislations (mining, land use planning, decentralization), FPIC, issues surrounding recognition, security and transferability of community rights, REDD + and tenure security.

Table 1: Priority outcomes and indicators of progress

Priority outcomes	Indicators of progress
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A CSO think tank is established and operationalized at the national, provincial and local levels. • The advocacy strategy for tenure reform is further developed. • Stronger communication and national coordination is established within the CSO think tank, and with provincial representatives and CONAREF. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Regulations governing think tank are implemented. • 1 Explanatory tenure memorandum is produced and circulated. • 4 Capacity building workshops and CSO refresher courses are organized. • 1 DRC tenure advocacy paper is produced (participatory mapping, CLIP, the right of women, migrants, refugees, Indigenous peoples, etc.). • 1 Communication plan is produced, monitored and evaluated. • 1 Synthesis report by the RRI Baseline Study capitalizing on the strategy laid out in CSO advocacy documents.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A strategy for the signing of texts on local community forestry concessions is developed and implemented. • Consistency is ensured with the draft decree on local community forestry concessions, the draft ordinance on community lands and the bill establishing customary authority. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • An advocacy plan is developed and integrated by all CSOs involved in the think tank. • The draft text regarding local community land is standardized among the relevant ministries. • Dialogue with the various authorities involved in signing the three texts is carried out and a paper highlighting inconsistencies of the three texts is written and circulated. • Meetings (informal/formal) between civil society and traditional leaders are organized. • Draft texts are standardized among the concerned authorities.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A comprehensive strategy for CSO involvement in REDD+ strategy is developed and implemented. • Community forestry contributes to securing local community rights in REDD+. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • An advocacy plan for monitoring land use issues in the REDD+ process is established; • Social safeguards are built into the decree and all other texts regarding the approval of REDD+ projects and initiatives, including CLIP methodology and indicators. • 3 new community forestry sites are established through the different provinces, adding up to 150,000 hectares.

Table 2: Activities; Implementers; Budget

Activities	Implementers	Budget (Funded)	Budget (Unfunded)
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Main activity #1: Civil society engagement on tenure and rights in the land reform process: draft and discuss the structure and internal dynamic of the CSO think-thank on tenure; produce strategic analyses on tenure rights and on land use planning; develop advocacy strategies on FPIC, participatory mapping and on gender; organize back to back a workshop with the members (national and provincial) the CSO think tank on tenure around the papers produced + a national dialogue with the different stakeholders (private sector, traditional authorities, CONAREF, the CSO think-thank on tenure) 	CONAREF, RRN and CODELT, CONAPAC, Parliament (Committee on the Environment and Natural Resources); Provincial traditional leaders and the national secretariat of traditional leaders; Departments: MAF, MECNT, Territory planning, decentralization Prime Minister; Presidency. Technical and Financial Partners (FAO, UN-Habitat, World Bank, DFID, GIZ, NORAD, UNREDD).	\$121,500	\$140,000
<u>Sub-activities</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Draft the internal rules of the CSO think tank on tenure. Produce of the explanatory tenure memorandum (Recognition, security and transferability options). Document experiences on securing collective land and forest rights in rural areas/provinces through pilot cases (participatory mapping, registration, collective titling). Produce advocacy paper on land tenure in the DRC. Organize a workshop with the members (national and provincial) internal think tank dialogue on the papers produced. Organize back to back a workshop with the members (national and provincial) the CSO think tank on tenure around the papers produced + a national dialogue with other stakeholders (private sector, customary authorities, administrations, CONAREF). Production of a synthesis document from the baseline study(budget from baseline) 		\$2,500	
		\$3,000	
		\$30,000	\$60,000
		\$6,000	
			\$80,000
		\$80,000	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Main activity #2: advocate for community tenure rights on land and forest policies – draft position and advocacy / policy briefs for the legal recognition of community forest concessions, local communities land, and draft 	Secretary generals of various ministerial	\$22,000	

<p>an analysis paper showing the incoherencies between the customary authorities draft bill and the bill on community forest concessions and the land of local communities</p>	<p>departments,</p>		
<p><u>Sub-activities</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Develop a plan of influence regarding the signing of community forestry texts and its adoption by the CSO think tank; • Produce the draft text on local community land (Article 389, Land Code). • draft an analysis paper showing the incoherencies between the customary authorities draft bill and the bill on community forest concessions and the land of local communities 	<p>RRN and CODELT, CONAPAC ; Parliament (Committee on Environment and Natural Resources); CONAREF ; Provincial traditional leaders and the national secretariat of traditional leaders; Departments: MAF, MECNT, Territory planning, decentralization Prime Minister; Presidency. Technical and Financial Partners (FAO, UN-Habitat, World Bank, DFID, GIZ, NORAD, UNREDD).</p>	\$6,000	
		\$10,000	
		\$6,000	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Main activity # 3 Securing community tenure rights in REDD+ and land reform processes: advocate for community tenure rights in REDD+ processes and in the land use planning reform process; follow up the implementation of social safeguards and develop methodology and indicators on FPIC, and implement three community forestry and REDD+ pilots in the provinces 	<p>Customary authorities, TFP, provincial governments, CSOs, TFP, national REDD+ coordination, INGOs, CSOs, traditional authorities, national REDD+ coordination, TFPs, national and provincial parliament.</p>	\$38,000	\$60,000
<p><u>Sub-activities</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Develop an advocacy plan for monitoring land use issues in the REDD+ process and their impact on local law. • Monitor the Decree approving the integration of social safeguards, including CLIP methodology and indicators • Establish three new community forestry sites in three provinces for a total of about 150,000 hectares. 		\$5,000	
		\$3,000	
		\$30,000	
Total DRC Budget		\$181,500	\$200,000

Country Overview: Burkina Faso

1. Changes since the previous year

Since 1993, Burkina Faso has begun its decentralization process. Despite apparent political willingness, the transfer of power over natural resources management (including land and forest) from the State to local authorities is long overdue. The local officials recently elected in December 2012 (who took office in 2013) have advocated for implementing a more effective, local governance system. The gradual transfer of authority over land and forest management to regional governments and local collectivities has been announced and Regional and Communal Development Plans (PRDs and PCDs) are under revision.

In order to "accelerate economic growth and promote sustainable economic and social development," the Government of Burkina Faso has opted for the growth pole approach. The first pilot site, installed in November 2012, is that of Bagré. As part of the Bagré Growth Pole Project, an investor conference has been planned in order to attract investment in large-scale projects. Following this trend, the growth pole policy will lead to the promotion of agribusiness at the expense of communities. Draft mining legislation is currently under review by the National Assembly, it supposedly takes better account of local community resource rights and corporate social responsibility, although this must be better integrated in policy. Recently, Burkina Faso was selected by a group of experts designated by the Forest Investment Programme (FIP) Sub-Committee to be one of the pilot countries under the Strategic Climate Fund and is the only Sahelian REDD+ country.

Over the past year, TENFOREST, RRI's Collaborator NGO network in Burkina Faso, has significantly changed its objectives by undertaking collaborative strategic activities and developing new partnerships with various key government ministries involved in natural resources management: the Ministry of Scientific Research and Innovation, the Ministry of Women's Affairs, the Ministry of Environment, and the Ministry of decentralization, and the national REDD+ division

2. Assessment of new opportunities and challenges:

a. Opportunities

- The institutional environment in Burkina Faso offers numerous opportunities to participate in gender justice and to positively influence local, disadvantaged communities;
- The development and adoption of the National Gender Policy (Law 034 of 24 July 2009), on rural land tenure opens significant opportunities yet to be codified in legislation or acted upon by Civil Society;
- A number of international women's organizations and coalitions are advocating women's land rights in Burkina Faso, especially for rural women. Their advocacy has led the government to adopt a National Gender Policy. Synergistic action with the TENFOREST platform will better coordinate the various pleas for gender justice as related to land and forest tenure in the country;
- In recent years, regional organizations, like the African Union, sub-regional organizations, such as ECOWAS, UEMOA, CILSS, and national level civil society organizations have mobilized against large-scale land acquisition. Regional provisions, supported by international conventions, require states to harmonize their national legislation in order to

- compel investors to adopt standards and procedures which account for local community tenure rights and help to strengthen them;
- Despite its status as a Sahelian country, Burkina Faso has been selected to be one of the pilot countries under the FIP of the Strategic Climate Fund. This situation provides an opportunity to make real changes in land use and forest management, agroforestry and farming systems to reduce forest emissions and help mitigate global warming;
 - Burkina Faso's Readiness Preparation Plan for REDD (R-PP Burkina) is expected to be approved in December 2013. Once it is passed, it will pave the way for the writing of the national REDD+ strategy in 2014, with the implementation of the FIP. The REDD+ process in itself is an opportunity to preserve the natural resources that support long-term rural livelihoods in Burkina Faso, but this requires a more informed and engaged civil society, both communities and NGOs.

b. Challenges

A number of significant challenges at both an operational and institutional level remain. Among the most important are:

- According to the law, land titles are the main guarantor of tenure security. However, the high cost of its acquisition makes it unattainable to many of the local communities most in need;
- The transfer of skills and resources to local authorities through decentralization is a hopeful process for securing tenure and community authority over resource management. In practice, these transfers are slow to implement due to state inaction and community unpreparedness and lack of technical skills.;
- Despite an apparent political will to fight large-scale land acquisitions, the government has favored private investment in agriculture and mining as a route to rapid economic growth. The ensuing large-scale land acquisitions bring negative environmental as well as social impacts for local communities;
- Despite the legal requirement of equitable access to land and forest resources, women have limited access. This is due to persistence of other policies which do not favor women and, secondly, to persistence of customary norms in rural environments that disfavor women's land and forest tenure and related rights;

3. Strategy and proposed areas of intervention

The RRI strategy for Burkina Faso aims to work through TENFOREST to promote alternative economic models of natural resource management and use that favor women's tenure and rights and strengthen local community authority for natural resource management, critiquing the growth pole model of development, engaging in the REDD+ and FIP process, promoting a more sound mining code and practices, and supporting approval of local land charters (chartres foncieres locales- CFLs) and land certificates (Attestations de possession fonciere- APFs) for women. Areas of intervention include: a) dissemination of analysis of impacts of the pilot growth pole program in Bagré, b) a program of awareness raising regarding women's rights to land and forest tenure, targeting to government authorities at multiple levels, communities and women; c) outreach to rural communities to enable them to actively participate in national REDD+ processes and programs, d) recommending modifications to the Mining Code being revised, advancing land charters and recognizing local natural resource management authority.

Table 1: Priority outcomes and indicators of progress

Priority Outcomes	Indicators of Progress
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Two municipalities have realized the importance of considering model farmers in the development of their villages. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Two municipalities have become aware.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> One municipality considered the land rights of at least five model farmers in greater village development. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The rights of five model farmers were considered.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> National growth pole policy has considered local community rights. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> TENFOREST's recommendations were considered.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Deficiencies were identified in the consideration of local community rights in the implementation of the Mining Code and its implementing decrees 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The rights of local communities were taken into account in the decrees of the Mining Code
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> One land charter taking gender into account is developed. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> One land charter is available.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 15 Local Development Plans (PLDs) integrate gender and climate change using improved guidelines 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 15 PLDs integrate gender and climate change issues into their charters.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Five land certificates (APFs) applications are completed and deposited at the administrative level 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Five applications have been deposited.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Scientific Committee for the Observatory on Gender is implemented. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> One Scientific Committee is created.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> TENFOREST is engaged and active in both the REDD+ and FIP process in Burkina Faso. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The steering committee + 30 members + ministerial departments (which are partnered with TENFOREST) are formed; TENFOREST's involvement in the REDD+ and FIP process in Burkina Faso

Table 2: Activities; Implementers; Budget

Activities to achieve priority outcomes	Implementers	Budget (Funded)	Budget (Unfunded)
<p>Engagement with the private sector and alternative economic models</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Organize awareness meetings with decision makers on “peasants models” (<i>paysans modeles</i>) as viable alternative economic models • Advocate for the recognition of community tenure rights in the Bagre growth pole project (BGPP) and CSOs’ participation in the drafting of BGPP national policies • Advocate for community and women’s tenure rights in the mining code and in its regulations 	<p>The TENFOREST steering committee along with the Association of Municipalities, the Farmer Confederation of Burkina Faso, national elected officials and resource persons from the Ministry of the Economy and Finance, the Ministry of Agriculture, the World Bank, the African Development Bank, local authorities and local CSOs.</p>	<p>\$30,000</p>	<p>\$14,000</p>
<p>Securing community and women’s tenure rights at the local level:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Develop and implement local land charter • Advocate and support women’s acquisition of land certificates (<i>Attestations de possession fonciere- APF</i>) 	<p>The TENFOREST steering committee along with the concerned local authorities, decentralized state technical services, partners active in the community, local CSOs, the private sector (consultants), community partners (PNGT II PACT COGEL) and the Ministry in charge of territorial communities.</p>	<p>\$50,000</p>	<p>\$10,000</p>
<p>Integration of gender, women’s tenure rights and climate change in local governance</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Organize information and awareness sessions in the drafting of local development plans (PLD) • Support and participate in the drafting of communal development plans (PCD) 	<p>The TENFOREST steering committee along with local authorities, the private sector (consultants), Community Partners (PNGT II PACT COGEL) and the Ministry in charge of territorial communities.</p>	<p>\$20,000</p>	<p>\$16,000</p>
<p>CSOs’ participation and representation in national</p>	<p>The TENFOREST steering committee, the Environment</p>	<p>\$40,000</p>	<p>\$10,000</p>

<p>REDD+ and FIP processes to advocate for community and women’s tenure rights:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Organize a training workshop around REDD+ , FIP, and tenure for TENFOREST members and government officials • Develop an advocacy strategy • Organize one exchange visit in a REDD+ country to learn experiences from CSOs and government (Cameroon or Tanzania) 	<p>Ministry, CSOs and donors.</p>		
<p>Put in place a scientific committee and watchdog group on gender and tenure reforms</p>	<p>The TENFOREST steering committee</p>		<p>\$10,000</p>
<p>Total Burkina Faso Budget</p>		<p>\$140,000</p>	<p>\$60,000</p>

Country Overview: Mali

1. Changes since the previous year

In 2012, Mali experienced a serious political-security crisis that paralyzed its government, national institutions and development sector. In 2013, however, there has been promising changes in several areas. There was a democratic presidential election in July with a new President and government who went immediately to work. This led to the return of development partners such as the European Union, the United Nations programs, the Swiss Cooperation, the Swedish Cooperation, and USAID to resume and continue development activities interrupted due to the crisis. The legislative elections in November which finalize the establishment of national decision-making institutions were preceded by the organization of a General Assembly on decentralization (*Etats generaux sur la decentralization*) in October and the development forum for Mali's northern regions. All these restructuring processes have created opportunities to put decentralization, local governance, peace and security at the center of the national debate. Additionally, the Pan-African Great Green Wall programme (covering the Sahel from Senegal to Eritrea) has evolved over the years shifting the focus from conservation to sustainable management with community management of natural resources. The proposed route/wall is likely to have huge impacts on land tenure but it has not been addressed by the implementers, including the national forest service, in the concerned countries. In 2013, the RRI coalition in Mali worked closely with the Mali forest service on the assessment of environmental and social impacts of the GGW, highlighting challenges posed by the proposed route on land and forest tenure.

2. Assessment of new opportunities and challenges

a. Opportunities

- Newly elected officials are committed to local governance mainly the decentralized management of forest resources and land.
- The national dialogue and reconciliation process initiated by the government provide space for discussions on natural resources and tenure rights given that one of the fundamental causes of the crisis is poor natural resource governance.
- At the time of the crisis, government's absence led to CSOs and local collectivities (decentralized bodies) to take over local issues, particularly in the northern regions. This has compelled the State to give more consideration to civil society organizations and local collectivities in decision-making processes. The RRI coalition in Mali has been structured to take into account the civil society momentum with the inclusion of several organizations and strategic networks working on various issues related to natural resources management.
- Mali has developed a National Policy on Climate Change along with a national strategy and action plan. There is also a national CSOs platform on climate change. However, the policy, strategy and action plan are completely ignored by the people and CSOs.
- In line with the Agricultural Orientation Law (Loi d'orientation agricole), Mali is currently developing its land policy which is an opportunity to capitalize on RRI experience in securing rights through local conventions.

b. Challenges

- Decentralization policy stipulates the transfer of power from the state to local elected officials. However, natural resource management is still in the hands of the State. Actions already initiated should be continued in order to guarantee effective transfer.
- Issues of natural resource governance and tenure rights have not been sufficiently taken into account by the National Dialogue and Reconciliation Commission. Since the country is predominantly agro-pastoral (the Touaregs) the lack of addressing local communities and pastoralist tenure rights will not make the peace building process sustainable.
- To boost the national economy, Mali has appealed to investors. However, it is increasingly clear that these investments benefit companies rather than the government and communities.
- The government of Mali has drafted climate change national policy, strategy and action plan; however, neither communities nor CSO's have participated in the drafting process. There has not been also any analysis on how community rights and tenure issues have been taken into account whereas the Malian population is made up primarily of peasants, fishermen and herders/pastoralists/touaregs.

3. Strategy and proposed areas of intervention

- *Decentralization and natural resource governance:* Effective decentralization should contribute to improving natural resource governance in Mali. There are existing local options for securing rights such as the creation of local land commissions (mainly based on by-laws to avoid local land conflicts) to agree on local conventions. Piloting these can generate best practices and government confidence to accelerate the transfer of power on forest and land management from the State to local authorities.
- *Forest Enterprise and Non-Timber Forest Products (NTFPs):* Women play a key role in the collection, processing and commercialization of NTFPs; however, they still face challenges to access technology, credit, and national and international markets. The forest rules and regulations do not also offer enabling conditions for women to benefit from the sector. It is important to strengthen NTFPs as alternative economic models.
- *Tenure, peace, and security:* It is important for forest and land tenure rights to be part of the strategic focus areas of the National Commission on Dialogue and Reconciliation. The RRI coalition in Mali will use the results and recommendations from the 2013 study on the “impacts of the Mali political crisis on community tenure rights” to make a case for the importance of securing rights at the local level, adopting a law on local conventions, and recognizing local options for securing the collective rights of farmers, herders/pastoralists, women, peasants, etc. The findings of the study demonstrate that recognizing customary and local rights are a pre-requisite for sustainable peace.
- *Safeguards and corporate social responsibilities on large-scale land acquisitions (LSLA):* The expansion of LSLA in Mali, mainly through mining, has always been based on bilateral agreements between the state and investors. Communities and CSOs have not been party to these agreements, nor used dialogues or other actions to engage the private sector. The RRI strategic actions will foster dialogues and public debates among the main stakeholders, which

will allow communities to better understand the government mining policies, including requirements for consultation and the right to give their consent or not, and to better understand the impacts on their land and resources. Community knowledge and capacity development will place them in a better position to negotiate with private companies and secure their tenure rights.

- *Climate Change adaptation and resilience:* The RRI coalition through the national CSOs network on climate will review the main national climate change policy documents and determine if they are pro-rights, pro-poor, and pro-tenure, and gender-sensitive. Recommendations will be made for incorporating communities' and women's tenure rights and a CSO watchdog group formed to ensure their implementation.
- *The Pan-African Great Green Wall programme:* Based on the 2013 assessment, the RRI Coalition will continue its engagement with implementers, improving its own knowledge-level concerning the GGW project and its institutional framework and engage in dialogue with the main actors at the subregional level, mainly in Mali, Burkina Faso and Senegal, informing them of major issues inherent to the project. The work done in Mali will be used as a case study for a regional engagement.

Table 1: Priority outcomes and indicators of progress

Priority Outcomes	Indicators of Progress
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Six land commissions are set up and supported in their operations in three regions of Mali. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Number of functioning land commissions; number of disputes handled by land commissions.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A decree on decentralized forest resources management is drafted and submitted to the Council of Ministers. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Number of decrees submitted to the Council of Ministers; number of committee advocacy meetings.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A draft law on local conventions is written. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • One draft legislation on local conventions.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A dialogue has been initiated on NTFP regulation (2010 Forest Law and its two decrees). 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • One analysis available; one open debate held, number of White papers produced and disseminated.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Three workshops/local public debates and a national debate which opens the dialogue between communities, local authorities, the state and companies on LSLA and classified forests. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Three public debates held; number and caliber of participants; number of recommendations given.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Malian CSOs play a role in monitoring the inclusion of local community and women tenure rights in the National Strategy for Climate Change. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • One stocktaking paper available; one strategy and policy analysis; number of amendments.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Local community land tenure rights is adopted as a theme in the national reconciliation process by the Dialogue and Reconciliation Commission created by the government. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Two diagnostic analyses available; number of resolutions; groups affected by the diagnosis.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The tenure rights and issues at stake on the GGW are better known by the communities concerned and other stakeholders. 	

Table 2: Activities; Implementers; Budget

Activities	Implementers	Budget (Funded)	Budget (Unfunded)
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Support creation of local land commissions (trainings and action plans) and conduct an assessment workshop; analyse draft laws and revive national advocacy and technical committees on decentralization 	HSI (lead) Sahel Eco, IUCN, TONUS, CMAT, RLD Along with: The Permanent Secretariat of the Higher Council of Agriculture, CNOP, the Regional Executive Agricultural Council, Justice services, local communities, locally elected HCC Deputies, CADD, GP / DCF; AEDD and MEA, farmer grps.	\$60,000	\$25,000
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Promote women NTFPs enterprises analyzing the forest rules and regulations and defining options for securing women’s rights to land and forest resources. 	Sahel ECO (lead), GP/DCF, ICRAF with FENAFER, CNOP, forest companies, the DNEF.	20,000	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Local public debates and national dialogues on LSLA with communities, local collectivities, the government, and private companies, and CSOs on LSLA. 	TONUS (lead), CMAT, HSI, Sahel Eco and RLD, Réso-climat, SOGC, AEDD (stakeholder), RLD, Alliance Ecosystème, GCOZA, Communities, Grassroots orgs.	\$40,000	\$10,000
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Analyze national climate change policies, mapping climate change projects in Mali and their impacts on tenure rights, and draft an advocacy document for pro-community tenure rights and gendered climate change policies. 	Reso Climat/HSI (lead), GP/DCF, UICN	20,000	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Advocacy with the government, the HCC, and the national commission on dialogue and reconciliation and propose measures to take community tenure rights into account 	APCAM, Commission Dialogue et reconciliation, Ministère de la reconciliation, CMAT, Les CR-ONG	15,000	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Disseminate the results of the Mali GGW environment impact assessment to stakeholders in affected areas and mainstream natural resource issues in the Dialogue and Reconciliation Commission’s activities. 	HIS, Sahel Eco, RLD, ICRAF, UICN, GP/DCF, GPDCF (lead), RLD, Sahel Eco, IUCN, With DNEF/National agencies/focal points, CILSS, UEMOA and ECOWAS Parliaments, ROPPA (CNCR, CNOP et CPF) APCAM, the Dialogue and Reconciliation Commission, the Ministry of Reconciliation, CMAT and CR-NGO.	Regional activity	
Total Mali Budget		\$ 155,000	\$35,000

Country overview: Senegal

1. Changes since the previous year

As of 2013, Senegal is in the process of reforming multiple sectors, including initiating a comprehensive land reform, in addition to a reform of its mining and pastoral codes as well as a decentralization process. Senegal's first land reform dates back from 1964, shortly after its independence. It designated the State as sole owner of all registered national land. Although this law eliminated customary rights on land as well as questioned prior collective and individual property rights, it proved to be ineffectual in rural areas where customary rights prevailed.

Senegal's first decentralization reform was initiated in 1972 placing a Sub-prefect (Sous-préfet) as state representative at the local level. This authority was mandated to manage all land allocations and rules related to forest resource management. Even where local councils were put into place, limited human and financial capacity to implement the law prevented them from ensuring sustainable management of the lands in common, which resulted in (over)exploitation and a perception of these as vacant land.

The 1996 regionalization process – or phase II of decentralization – transferred power to local officials in nine (9) domains including land and forest resource management, but did not result in the effective transfer of power due to the lack of financial resources. The initial 1964 law was thus, de facto, still the reigning policy, resulting in contradictory responses to new trends, e.g., demographic pressures, urban growth, economic liberalization and expanding LSLAs.

It's against this backdrop that the recently elected political party the "Alliance for the Republic" (APR), in power since March 2012, has initiated major reforms of all sectors, including natural resources. These reforms are to be based on the Democratic Governance Charter following the convening of the National Assizes (June 1, 2008 – May 24, 2009) which included a number of recommendations relating to natural resources and the rule of good governance to ensure interests of both local people and communities are taken into account for sustainable development and for future generations. Any contracts, prospecting or exploitation of the soil by private investors are to be transparent and the related revenues/taxes incorporated in the State and local collectivities' budgets. The recommendation on land governance stressed the need for harmonization of the different land tenure regimes to meet national development objectives and to ensure equity and social cohesion. The issue pertaining to the coexistence of two regimes is to be addressed through treating urban and rural lands on equal terms with the adoption of titling of all lands and by granting full property rights to local communities on their territories.

Since the National Assizes the following reforms have been initiated:

- Act III of decentralization (Feb. 2013), seeks to organize the country in sub-territories that are viable, competitive vectors of sustainable development and clarify the State and local collectivities' powers by putting clear mechanisms in place. However, although local elected officials are in charge of land and forest management under the 1996 decentralization law, they are not involved in the current land reform process. Other challenges include: the technical and centralized nature of the established National Committee (20 members) as well as the lack of inclusion of many CSOs representing local communities' interest;
- Pastoral legislation (March 2013) Although the revision process is much appreciated by CSOs, they have expressed their concern with two majors shortcomings as far as the methodology goes: (i) the accelerated process does not allow pastoral communities and organizations an internal consultation

approach which is open to all constituents; and (ii) the Ministry in charge of Livestock has coopted the national piloting committee, thereby bypassing leaders seeking to shape the new code.

- Revision of the 2003 mining code (April 2013), initially elaborated by the previous Administration to attract investors by providing generous tax exonerations. The new regime in power has observed that, the mining sector deserves to be reviewed in light of shortcomings in social and environmental standards and economic considerations. In addition to current lost bid revenues for the State, the 2003 mining code is not explicit enough regarding mining companies' obligations towards communities for such elements as compensation payments and provision of social services. In order for the current revision of the mining code to address these issues, the newly established National Committee, which includes the NGO coalition CONGAD, needs to also allow the participation of local elected officials union (UAEL) and local communities;
- National Land Commission –CNRF - (created March 2013) Composed of 75 members, mainly from government Ministries, local collectivities and technical/financial partners. CSOs were excluded at the onset, the national NGO coalition (CONGAD) but the National Council for Rural Consultation and Cooperation (CNCR) pushed for their inclusion and a Gender Observatory (within the University) was only later included. The Commission has become slightly more inclusive, but with major shortcomings: a lack of funding; a technocratic and legalistic approach impeding effective participation of other civil society actors and local communities; and an agenda that ignores land or forest issues.

While these simultaneous reforms demonstrate political will of the Senegalese Authorities to reform inadequate laws across sectors, a number of challenges remain that create opportunities for RRI to influence the reforms towards a more inclusive process that addresses local communities' interests and concerns.

2. Assessment of new opportunities and challenges

a. Opportunities

- Political will to revise Senegal's main laws and policies (forest, mining, land, pastoral code, decentralization, etc.) and the willingness to engage civil society organizations such as the national NGO coalition/CONGAD, the National Council for Rural Consultation and Cooperation (CNCR), and the Union of local elected officials (UAEL).
- The resignation of the CNRF provides an opportunity to rethink the modalities for the involvement of civil society in the consultations and ensure land and forest tenure rights of local communities, peasants, women and youth are taken into account in the work of a reconvened commission.
- The involvement of civil society in the land reform process can foster a broader and more inclusive debate on the new land law in relation to other reforms (mining, decentralization, pastoral and sustainable development policies) and build an important national consensus on community rights.
- Civil society is increasingly getting organized as demonstrated by the multiple initiatives described above.
- It is possible to create a synergy around civil society's collective effort and influence the State to enact the National Commission on Land Reform, accelerate the reform and focus on issues surrounding local community land tenure rights.

b. Challenges

- Ten months after creation of the CNRF, the president and members have decided to freeze their activities for: lack of financial means for the State to complete its mission and the intrusion of the Ministry of Justice in the CNRF's work, putting the land reform process effectively back to the starting point.
- Agriculture is considered the main lever for Senegal's development by local and national level actors. The heavy reliance on foreign, large scale investment is a direct threat to protecting traditional occupants and for defining policies that secure land for local communities.
- CSO proposals have yet to be capitalized, and isolation of many CSOs limits their ability to influence the land reform process.
- Another important challenge will be the harmonization of the decentralization process initiated by the State to effectively transfer management powers to local officials.
- To date, little funding is available for civil society to engage in influencing the land reform process in Senegal, despite the existence of strategic documents such as policy notes.
- The Land Governance Assessment Framework (LGAF) which is one of the main reference documents in land process is missing a key module, forest. This makes it difficult to have an adequate debate on why forest is important to be taken into account in the new land law.
- The main studies that are currently being considered to inform the land reform process focus on individual land titling in both rural and urban areas and have unstated objectives of reforming to attract more investors.

3. Strategy and proposed areas of intervention:

In light of Senegal's multiples reform processes, RRI proposes 4 entry points.

First is the strategic analysis/review of the 1964 land law in relation to the decentralization reform in view of an increased participation of local authorities, CSO and communities in this third phase of the decentralization process.

Second is the capitalization of existing local case studies and position documents to inform the land reform process with a policy brief and advocacy documents to sensitize policy makers on the importance of collective tenure rights of peasant organizations, women, herders/pastoralists, and local communities.

Third, is to put a focus on the forested areas covering most of the South (Casamance and Tambacounda). RRI will support IPAR in collaboration with the forest service to develop the forest module of the LGAF (the only missing module for Senegal LGAF to be complete).

Fourth is to carry out a critical analysis of the main studies from development partners (World Bank, African Development Bank, and CIRAD) to inform the land reform to see how community tenure has been treated and assess the implications of recommended strategies in this regard.

Table 1: Priority outcomes and indicators of progress

Priority outcomes	Indicators of progress
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Propositions and advocacy documents are formulated to inform the national land commission on how community and collective tenure rights should be taken into account in the land reform process 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Proposals from CSOs, peasants/farmers, herders/pastoralists, women's groups, and communities
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The 1964 land law is analyzed from a community tenure rights perspective and the inconsistencies with the decentralization law revealed 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Legal analysis report Policy brief
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The main studies to inform the land reform process are critically analyzed from RRI perspective 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Report

Table 2: Activities, Implementers, Budget

Activities to achieve priority outcomes	Implementers	Budget (Funded)	Budget (Unfunded)
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Prepare policy briefs, position documents and solid arguments on the importance of taking collective land tenure rights into account in the land reform process and by the national land commission: peasants organizations, herders/pastoralists, women, and local elected officials 	IPAR, the NGO coalition (CONGAD), the national council of rural communities (CNRS), the pastoralists association, the Gender Advisory group, MCA, OXFAM	\$10,000	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Draft the module on forest resources of Senegal Land Governance Assessment Framework (LGAF) 	IPAR, the forest service, consultant, MCA, OXFAM	\$10,000	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Analyze the 1964 land policies and its regulations and the inconsistencies between the land and decentralization laws and policies, and the role of local conventions; produce a policy analysis paper 	Consultant, IPAR, MCA, the Ministry of Land, the local elected officials unions (UAEL)	\$5,000	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Review from a community tenure rights perspective of the main studies commissioned by the Senegalese government and its financial and development partners (World Bank, African Development Bank, CIRAD, etc.) for the land reform process 	RRI consultant/fellow/Partner IPAR, CONGAD	\$5,000	
Total Senegal Budget		\$30,000	